GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2846
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2007
CONSERVATION OF BATS
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether bats are being hunted on a large scale in various parts of the country and eight out of thirteen fruit-eating species of it are on the verge of extinction;

(b) if so, whether the Government has formulated any scheme for conservation of bats; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to conserve bats under Wildlife Conservation Act?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) Instances of hunting of fruit eating bats can not be ruled out. As per the information based on the Conservation Assessment and management Plan (CAMP) Workshop on Bats, organized under the aegis of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), during 2002, out of thirteen fruit bats in India, 3 are listed as 'Endangered', 1 as 'Vulnerable', 4 as 'Near Threatened' and 5 species as of 'Least Concern'.

(b) Several efforts have been made by the Government institutions such as the Wildlife Institute of India, Zoological Survey of India and Non Governmental Organizations such as the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Zoo Outreach Organization, Madurai Kamraj University, and others in the form of inventory, monitoring and ecological studies on fruit bats.

(c) Under the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Salim Ali's Fruit Bat (Latidens salimalii) has been included in Schedule-I thereby affording it highest degree of protection. Further, the habitats of fruit bats in Protected Areas are fully protected under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.